

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00471 160924Z

12

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-03

DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01 EB-03 /046 W

----- 032858

P R 160818Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1072

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T MUSCAT 471

LIMDIS

NOFORN

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORS, PINS, MASS, UK, JO, IR, MU

SUBJECT: EXPATRIATE ADVISORY ROLES IN DEFENSE/SECURITY FIELD

REF: (A) DEPT A-74 OF JANUARY 6

(B) MUSCAT 201

1. EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED MUSCAT'S 201 AND BELIEVES THAT THERE IS LITTLE TO ADD TO EVALUATION CONTAINED THEREIN. NEW FACTORS WHICH HAVE ARISEN ARE DISCUSSED BELOW.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MUSCAT 00471 160924Z

2. MOST UPDATING RELATES TO RASH OF JORDANIAN-OMANI DEFENSE

ACTIVITY OVER PAST TWO MONTHS. JORDANIAN SPECIAL BATTALION ARRIVED IN LATE FEBRUARY AND IMMEDIATELY WAS DEPLOYED ALONGSALALAH-MIDWAY ROAD. THESE FORCES SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE BEEN USED ON SORTIES IN VICINITY OF THEIR MORE-OR-LESS STATIC POSITIONS. OMANI MILITARY HIGHLY PLEASED WITH PERFORMANCE OF JORDANIANS TO DATE, AND EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO ASSURE EXTENSIONS OF STAY BEYOND SEPTEMBER WHEN SIX-MONTH COMMITMENT DUE TO EXPIRE. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE MATTER FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN SULTAN QABOOS AND KING HUSSEIN WHEN LATTER VISITS OMAN (NOW SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 20).

3. AN INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN EMERGENCE OF HUSSEIN AS SPECIAL SORT OF "ADVISOR" TO SULTAN AND OMANGOV ON DEFENSE MATTERS. IN ADDITION TO ABOUT-TO-BE-COMPLETED EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY RESPECTIVE HEADS OF STATE, LOWER LEVEL DELEGATIONS HAVE TRAVELED BACK AND FORTH WITH SOME FREQUENCY. ALTHOUGH NOT ENTIRELY CONSISTENT, HUSSEIN SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN GENERALLY JAUNDICED VIEW OF BRITISH INVOLVEMENT. TO EXTENT THIS "ADVICE" INFLUENCES SULTAN, ROLE OF UK MIGHT DIMINSH AT AN ACCELERATED PACE. ANY TEMPTATION TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON BRITISHWOULD, HOWEVER, BE MODERATED BY NEED TO FIND SUBSTITUTE EXPATRIATES, AND WE QUESTION WHETHER JORDAN IS EITHER WILLING OR ABLE TO SUPPLANT HMG IN THIS ROLE.

4. ANOTHER PERTINENT FACTOR IS UNEXPECTEDLY SHARP NEGATIVE REACTION REPORTED ON PART OF SOME JORDANIAN OFFICERS. REFERENCE (A) SEEMINGLY PREDICATED ON ASSUMPTION THAT JORDAN PREPARED (INDEED, ALMOST EAGER) TO EXPAND ROLE IN AREA. IF REPORTS OF DISSENT ARE CORRECT, THIS MAY BE POINT OPEN FOR REASSESSMENT. (AMMAN MAY WISH TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THIS FACTOR, AS WELL AS DISCUSSION IN PARA 3.)

5. MUSCAT'S 201 DRAFTED JUST ABOUT TIME OMANI FINANCIAL CRISIS BEGAN TO UNFOLD. THUS FAR, ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY ANY CUTBACKS IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING. HOWEVER, THERE MIGHT BE SOME EFFORT AT EXTENDING PERIODS OF PAYMENT FOR ITEMS (E.G. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION THAT JAGUAR/RAPIER CONTRACT BE RENEGOTIATED), AND THESE EFFORTS, COUPLED WITH PRESUMED LESSENING OF CONFIDENCE IN OMANGOV'S ABILITY TO HANDLE ITS FINANCES, COULD

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MUSCAT 00471 160924Z

HAVE LONG-TERM DELETERIOUS EFFECT, ESPECIALLY ON BRITISH ROLE AND PRESENCE.

6. FINALLY, THERE HAS BEEN SOME SPECULATION THAT RECENT IRAN-IRAQ ACCORD CARRIED SECRET PROVISOS CALLING FOR IRANIAN PULLOUT FROM OMAN. THIS PUBLICLY HAS BEEN DENIED BY FONMIN ZAWAWI. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT SULTAN HAS TAKEN POLITICAL DECISION TO REQUEST IMPLEMENTATION OF OFF-AGAIN ON-AGAIN PLAN

TO STATION F-5'S AT MIDWAY; THIS WOULD BE TO ASSUAGE ANY
IRANAIN UNEASE ABOUT OMAN'S ARRANGEMENTS WITH JORDAN AND, AT
SAME TIME, TO SIGNAL ARABS THAT OMANGOV WILL CONTINUE TO RELY
ON IRAN AS LONG AS NECESSARY IN CONTEXT OF DHOFAR REBELLION.
WE THUS DISCOUNT SPECULATION THAT IRAN-IRAQ AGREEMENT WILL
IMPACT DIRECTLY ON DEFENSE/SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS HERE,
ALTHOUGH OMANI SUSPICION OF IRAQ REMAINS HIGH AND OMANGOV
WILL KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON IRAQI INITIATIVES IN GULF.
WOLLE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, EXPATRIATES, MILITARY ADVISERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MUSCAT00471
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750132-0545
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750446/aaaabqtx.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 DEPT A-74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPATRIATE ADVISORY ROLES IN DEFENSE/SECURITY FIELD
TAGS: PORS, PINS, MASS, UK, JO, IR, MU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006